GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2176
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2002
CONSTRUCTION OF GODOWNS IN RURAL AREAS
RAMCHANDRA PASWAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating a plan to provide special grants for construction of godowns in rural areas;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the Government propose to open agro-clinics to encourage the farmers for genetic farming; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has formulated anew Central Sector Scheme for Construction/Renovation/Expansion of Rural Godownsto provide to the farmers the facility of storage, pledge financing and other marketing services. The aim of the scheme is to enable small farmers to enhance their holding capacity in order to sell their produce at remunerative prices and to avoid distress sales by providing them with the facility of pledge loan at lower rate of interest. The scheme envisages grading and standardization of agriculture produce at the time of storage so that the receipts issued by the godown keeper can be used as a negotiable instrument as and when legal status is accorded to such receipts. Under the scheme, subsidy of 25% on the capital cost of construction of the godown would be provided after the completion of the project. For persons belonging to SC/ST and hilly areas and NorthEastern State the quantum of subsidy is 33.33%. The scheme has been approved on 26.2.2002. Under the Scheme, new storage capacity of 18.50 lakh tonnes and modernization of cooperative godowns of 1.50 lakhs tonnes has been envisaged. A sum of Rs.90.00 crores has been allocated for implementation of the scheme, by March 31st 2003.

(c) & (d): No, Sir. The Scheme for setting up of Agri-Clinics is a self-employmentScheme for Agriculture Graduates, and the Government would not open any Agri- Clinics.